(c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for providing STD facilities to 21 towns of Maharashtra State during the 7th Plan period.

Nanded telephones

711. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the proposal under consideration of Government to introduce new technology in telecommunication system of the country;

(b) by when telephones will start working efficiently;

(c) the progress made in the construction of Max. II building (Telephone Building) in Nanded Town of Maharashtra State;

(d) whether it is a fact that two Union Ministers laid the foundation stone of the building;

(e) whether it is also a fact that due to lack of accommodation new telephone connections are held up in Nanded City of Maharashtra State; and

(f) what steps Government intend to take for the improvement in telephone net work of Nanded City?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) For medium capacity exchanges digital electronic equipments are planned to be introduced progressively. The possibilities are being explored to introduce this technology by local manufacturing either through collaboration or with indigenous knowhow. This will modernise the local telephone service. Efforts are made to keep the telephones working efficiently.

(c) Construction of MAX-I (not MAX-II) type of building in Nanded is held up due to a court case.

(d) Union Home Minister and the then Communication Minister were present during foundation stone laying ceremony.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Efforts are being made to get the stay order vacated. A 2500 line exchange is planned to increase the capacity of telephone net work.

New co-axial line between Aurangabad and Hyderabad

712. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress in laying out new co-axial lines between Aurangabad and Hyderabad;

(b) how many cities would be benefited by having STD lines on this new Project; and

(c) whether Nizamabad, Nanded, Parbani Jalna would get STD lines soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) A coaxial cable system in the range 2.6 MHZ (capacity 600 channel) is planned from Aurangabad to Nanded only. There is at present no plan to have link between Nanded and Nizamabad. From Nizamabad to Hyderabad coaxial cable link is existing.

For Aurangabad-Nanded section, the laying of coaxial cable is completed. Repeaters and some MUX equipments have been received but line terminal equipment have been targetted to be supplied by M/s. I.T.I. in the year 1986-87.

(b) Jalna, Parbhani and Nanded.

(c) Nizamabad is a District Headquarter in Andhra Pradesh and Nanded. Parbhani and Jalna are the District Headquarters of Maharashtra.

All the four stations have been planned to be provided with STD facilities during the 7th Plan after automatisation of Nizamabad and Parbhani and commissioning of transmission media as mentioned above.

Waiting list for telephone connections

713. SHRI LAXMI NARAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting lists for getting telephone connections in Shakti Nagar, Delhi area under (i) General, (ii) special and (iii) S.S. categories separately, as on the 15th February, 1986;

(b) by when the persons registered under the Special and S.S. category upto 15th Feb. 1986 are proposed to be given telephone connections; and

(c) whether there is a proposal to release more telephone connections in the above area in the near future and if so,what are the number of such connections and by when they are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for getting the telephone connections in Shakti Nagar area under Non-OYT categories as on 15-2-1986 are (i) General—22,322 (ii) Special—802 and (iii) S.S.—79.

(b) On commissioning of new electronic exchange of 10.000 lines scheduled for March, 1987 the connections would be provided thereafter.

(c) As mentioned in (b) above after commissioning of the new exchange, about 9,000 telephone connections would be released progressively in various categories as per the allotment rules.

Telephone exchanges in Bihar

714. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh plan has been formulated for modernisation of telephone exchanges in Bihar; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) Electronic Telephone Exchanges have been planned at the following places in Bihar:

Ranchi	(i)	3,000 Lines	(local)
	(ii)	1,000 lines	(Trunk Automatic Exchange)
Patna	—	10,000	lines
Gaya		3,000	lines (Commissioned)
Dumka	—	400	lines
Hajipur	—	400	lines
Madhupuri	—	400	lines
Nawada	—	400	lines
Purnea		600	lines

Daily wage telephone operators in the Delhi telephones

715. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of daily wage telephone operators in the Delhi Telephones;

(b) whether it is a fact that the temporary telephone operators recruited three years ago went on strike on 31st December, 1985;

(c) if so, for how many days they remained on strike and what were their demands;